

Species of the Month 9/2023 || Slender Pitcher Plant

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Contrary to its dainty look, the Slender Pitcher Plant thrives in harsh, nutrient-poor conditions.

Find out more about this semi-woody climber as well as the special relationship it has with the Pitcher Plant Crab Spider! 🕸

Let us know what species you would like to see featured by [voting for the next Species of the Month](#).

CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

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Photo by Collin Chua

SLENDER PITCHER PLANT

Nepenthes gracilis

APPEARANCE

- The Slender Pitcher Plant is a semi-woody climber, growing up to 6 metres long.
- The pitchers in the lower part of the plant have different colour variations, from orange, maroon, or green, while pitchers on the upper parts are predominantly green.

HABITAT


- The Slender Pitcher Plant grows in nutrient-poor habitats.
- In Singapore, they tend to be found in more disturbed environments like degraded secondary rainforests, oftentimes alongside other pioneer plant species such as Simpho Air and the Resam fern.

"DIET"

- The pitchers are modified leaves that work as a pitfall trap for crawling insects such as ants.
- These insects are lured by the scent of nectar and in their attempt to get to it, slip on the waxy region of the pitcher, falling into its fluids.
- Insects seeking shelter under the pitcher's lid during rain would also become prey as the vibration from the falling raindrops would catapult it into the pitcher.

FUN FACT

- The Pitcher Plant Crab Spider has a mutualistic relationship with this plant. It ambushes flies visiting the mouth of the pitcher plant and drops their carcasses into its fluid after consuming them, benefitting both the plant and the spider.

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